

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application. The Examiner rejects claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bedingfield, Sr., et al. (US US 2003/0231759).

Applicant amends claims 1-4, 9-13 and 15, and cancels claims 5-8 and 14.

Applicant appreciates acknowledgement of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d).

§ 102(e) Rejection Bedingfield Reference

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(3) as being anticipated by Bedingfield. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). See, MPEP 2131.

The present invention relates to a communication terminal and method for preventing inadvertent calls to emergency services (for example, "911") or other services that make use of a truncated calling number such as "311" or "411." A terminal user will enter a phone number on the terminal, and upon sending the phone number, the terminal will sequentially transmit the digits of the phone number to the communication system. If the user inadvertently provided a phone number starting with the digits used by a service using a truncated number, the service would be called when the digits comprising the truncated number are sent to the communication system. For example, a telephone number in the United States has particular format comprising a 3 digit area code, a 3 digit office code or prefix, and a 4 digit line number, wherein the area code and the central office code can start with any number other than 1. See, Bedingfield, Fig. 3. In addition to the 10 digit AC-OC-LN telephone number, a long distance code of "1"

is provided to access a long distance service (typically to another area code, but more recently to a number within the same area code) resulting in an 11 digit number. A user may dial a number having a "919" (Raleigh, North Carolina) area code by transposing numbers and dial a number starting with "9119..." rather than "1919..." thereby being connected to the 911 emergency service when the erroneous number is serially transmitted to the communication system.

Bedingfield relates to a network-based personal dialing plan that allows a user to associate dialing strings of any length with easy-to-remember, user-selected aliases and for defining dialing rules, such as automatically adding digits to the directory number when the called number would be a long distance call from the calling location. Because the personal dialing plan resides on a network, and not on a terminal, Bedingfield receives a number string from a user; verifies whether the number string is a proper alias or a telephone number; if the number string is a proper alias, dials the number represented by the alias; if the number string is a telephone number, dials the telephone number; if the number string is not a proper alias or a proper telephone number, provides an error indication.

One major difference between the application and Bedingfield is that the application describes actions that occur within the communication terminal before the terminal communicates with the communication system and provides an error indication before a misdialed number is transmitted, while Bedingfield receives a completed number transmitted from a terminal before processing the number for an alias or an error.

Independent claims 1 and 9

Applicant amends independent claims 1 and 9 to add the limitations of receiving digits to comprise a call number, providing a call send signal to indicate the call number is complete, and generating an input error warning if the call number starts with the recognized call service code and if the call number does not contain the same number of digits as the recognized call service code. No

new matter is added, and the amendments find support in at least paragraphs [0023-II] (providing a call send signal) and paragraph [0026] (checking whether the input call number starts with a recognized call service code).

Bedingfield describes a communications network that receives a complete number from a user, checks the received number to determine whether the received number is a valid telephone number according to its length (Bedingfield, paragraph 0057), or whether the received number is an alias for a valid telephone number before placing the call to the received number or the telephone number represented by the alias. If neither, then Bedingfield generates an error message. Beyond, checking the length of a received number, Bedingfield does nothing more to verify whether the received number is a valid phone number.

The present invention of claims 1 and 9 checks whether the call number starts with a recognized call code and determines whether the call number is the same length as a recognized call service code. For example, if a user living in Raleigh, NC (area code 919) is required to dial a 10 digit number to reach another party nearby, but not a long distance call, the user would have to dial 919-123-4567. If the user misdialed 911-123-4567 instead, the call would be routed to the "911" emergency service. Here, the invention of claim 1 would determine that the misdialed number began with 911, and the number of digits of the misdialed number was different than three. The invention of claim 1 would alert the user with an error message.

If Bedingfield was presented with the same example, Bedingfield would receive the misdialed number (Bedingfield, Fig. 7, block 702), verify that the number is a complete string (Bedingfield, Fig. 7, block 704, and paragraph 0057, "a ten digit string if the provider's dialing plan utilizes ten digit dialing for local area"), and process the call (Bedingfield, Fig. 7, block 710) resulting in a call erroneously placed to "911."

Bedingfield does not teach the limitation of "checking whether the call number starts with a recognized call service code" and therefore cannot anticipate claims 1 and 9, and all claims dependant therefrom. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 1 and 9.

Dependent claims 2-4 and 10-12

Each of the above listed dependent claims depends from a now allowable independent claim and is therefore allowable for at least this reason. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Independent claims 13 and 15

Each of these independent claims have been amended to include the limitation "determine whether the call number starts with the recognized call service code and whether the call number starts with the recognized call service code." Applicant asserts that independent claims 13 and 15 are allowable over Bedingfield for at least the reasons discussed above, and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 13 and 15.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at (213) 623-2221.

Respectfully submitted,
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